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THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The past year has been one of peculiar trial to the cause of peace. The war-spirit occasionally rife in some parts of our own country ;—alarming developments of the same spirit all over Europe ;—the shameful war waged against China by the agents of England in the East ;—the armed interference of European powers in the affairs of Turkey and Egypt ;—the danger, sometimes imminent, of a general war through Christendom ;—the criminations and menaces bandied back and forth between ourselves and Great Britain ;—the wide and ominous ferment of war-passions through the civilized world ;—these and kindred disclosures have conspired to fill the friends of peace at times with gloomy apprehensions. Yet the general peace of Christendom continues still ; and these very events have served to show how great and extensive a change has already been wrought in public opinion on this subject. The cause, though sorely tried, has rarely made, in the same length of time, more progress than during the year just closed.

But a cloud, darker than ever before, has come over the Society's prospects. Its Father is no more ; for God hath taken him. Its Founder and President, its chief support and brightest ornament, WILLIAM LADD, the second Apostle of Peace in America, has been called, we trust, to the peacemaker's reward in heaven. Devoted and self-sacrificing, he fell a martyr to his zeal in the cause. He paused not till he sank exhausted in the midst of his toils, and died with the heavenly armor of peace upon him, all bright and well worn to the last. Peace to his memory ! He rests from his labors ; and long shall his works of universal philanthropy follow him.

We feel strongly inclined to linger on the memory of our venerable and much-loved friend ; but the passing notice of a Report can do little justice to his merits. Much more is demanded by the cause of peace itself ; and we are glad that our Executive Committee have not only made arrangements for a eulogy upon our lamented President, but taken incipient steps to procure materials, if such should be found to exist, for a biography that shall give a fuller history of his labors, and a larger and juster portrait of his character.

We might well pause here to review the progress made by the cause of peace under the labors of its departed leader. Few are aware how much he attempted, or how much accomplished ; for the proofs of his success, scattered far and wide in the altered views of thousands, are difficult to be collected or appreciated. We might speak of his conversations on this favorite theme, as he traversed the land, the charm of every circle, and a living encyclopedia on the subject of peace ; of his lectures delivered from seminary to seminary, from village to village, from city to city ; of the books, and tracts, and numberless essays, that came in such quick succession from his pen, ever fresh and glowing, like his own ardent, vivid and elastic mind. Such a man, acting in such ways, must, under God, produce results of great and lasting importance. It will take the world ages to learn how much he did for its welfare ; but we al-

ready know enough to embalm his memory in the admiration and gratitude of mankind.

Our Society, the offspring of his zeal, Mr. Ladd has left in a condition as promising as at any period of its existence. Its income, owing to causes that have curtailed the operations of every kindred enterprise, has not been the past year quite as large as during one or two years of much greater general prosperity; but it has nevertheless received about its usual proportion of aid from the community, and made perhaps as rapid progress as ever, by a wider diffusion of intelligence, especially through our publications. Our funds would not allow us to attempt much in the way of remunerated agencies; but we have kept the press at work in some departments more than in any former year, and have put in circulation some works of vital importance to the cause.

Besides the labors of our President, always without charge for his time or his personal expenses, we have had the services of our Corresponding Secretary, as a lecturer, and the general superintendent of our publications. We have also commissioned several ministers as local agents in their immediate vicinity; and the Rev. D. O. MORTON, a life-member of our Society, and an able, well-tried friend of our cause, has acted as a lecturing agent during a tour of ten or fifteen hundred miles into the far West. His labors, uniformly welcome and acceptable, promise lasting benefit to the cause. He has scattered broadcast through the West the good seed of peace; and, if lost by subsequent neglect, it will doubtless yield in the end a harvest of important results.

Of our standard publications, we have issued fewer than we could wish, yet more of some than during any former year. Several of our stereotype tracts have long been out of print for want of funds; but of the most important we have put forth new editions, published one additional tract from the popular and powerful pen of the Rev. HOWARD MALCOM, and stereotyped, at the expense of a benevolent lady in Portsmouth, N. H., the large tract written several years ago by our President, to impress upon women their duty to the cause of peace. Of our stereotyped volumes, we have published no editions during the year; but of our periodical, the instrument most effective for our cause, we have issued a larger number than ever before,—a part of the time 3500 copies,—and put them all, according to our usual practice, in immediate circulation.

Of the Prize Essays on a Congress of Nations, Mr. Ladd had the entire charge; and his death, so sudden and so recent, does not permit us now to speak with certainty of the condition in which he left it, or of the extent to which he had circulated it. We know, however, that it has been well received, both in this country and in Europe. The most flattering testimonies have been spontaneously given to its excellence as a literary work, and to its great value as a plea for universal peace. It has gone, or is now on its way, to the highest circles of influence in Christendom. Some of the foreign ambassadors, to whom it was presented in this country, spoke of it in the highest terms; the London Herald of Peace, the organ of the friends of peace in Great Britain, deems it likely to form an era in the history of the world; and the Queen of England, in reply to the present of a copy from our Society, and to a letter from our Pres-

ident, sent, through her foreign Secretary, a note decidedly favorable to our object, and couched in kind and very respectful terms. To such indications we would not attach undue importance; but we cannot help regarding them as signs of the times which promise well to our cause, and ought to encourage us in our work.

The authors of this book deserve well of the whole human family, and ought to be known through a wider circle than the comparatively few who may read their respective essays. The first one, evincing much taste and learning, came from the pen of JOHN A. BOLLES, Esq., Boston. Of the second, we know not the author.

The third, written with consummate ability, was from the pen of the late Charles B. Emerson, Boston. The fourth was by one of the ripest scholars, and most elegant writers in our country, the Rev. THOMAS C. UPHAM, Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy in Bowdoin College. The fifth was by a gentleman whose name, though withheld for a time from the public, has long been known to the friends of peace as an able, ardent advocate of the cause, ORIGEN BACHELER, New York, the writer of those luminous and eloquent petitions on a Congress of nations, which have successively been sent from that city to our Congress. The sixth and last was written by Mr. Ladd, at the request of our Executive Committee, as a kind of supplement to the rest, but exhibiting so full, so lucid and satisfactory a view of the whole subject in a small compass, that the London Peace Society issued forthwith an edition of twenty thousand copies for immediate circulation through Great Britain.

The subject of an International Congress and Tribunal is gradually gaining favor. The great powers of Europe are acting, though in a wrong way, upon a part of the very principle for which we plead; leading minds through Christendom are coming more and more into our views on this point; and we observe with pleasure the disposition of some legislators in our own country to press the subject on the attention of our national government, as embracing one of its appropriate and most important duties. Our indefatigable friend, Origen Bachelier, of New York, turned the attention of prominent members of the Committees on Foreign Relations, in both Houses of Congress, to the subject last winter, and obtained from one committee a verbal report, and from the other an assurance that it should be taken up at an early day in the next session. In the last Assembly of the State of New York, J. L. O'Sullivan, Esq., presented the subject in a series of resolutions strongly condemning the practice of war, and urging the Federal Government to take measures for bringing the project of a Congress of Nations before the leading states of Christendom. Such indications we hail as presages of a time not very far distant when the principle we advocate, will, in one form or another, be adopted by the civilized world as a permanent substitute for the sword.

From our foreign co-workers, we have continued to receive encouraging intelligence of the progress which the cause is making in other lands. Of our friends in Switzerland, since the death of the great and good Count de Sellon, we have heard little, though we know that he made provision in his will for the continuance at his own expense of a periodical on peace; but from France and England we learn more minutely, that the cause is advancing slowly, yet surely, amidst obstacles much greater than are to be found

among ourselves. At Paris, the Society of Christian Morals, embracing peace among its objects, has turned its attention anew to the subject, and offered a prize of one thousand francs for an essay on *the means of promoting universal peace*. Our brethren in England seem to have prosecuted the work with increased vigor and success, keeping several agents constantly in the field, and issuing popular tracts by tens and scores of thousands, and of one even a hundred thousand at once. In contributing money, and circulating publications on peace, they have from the first set an example much beyond that of our friends here, and worthy of all imitation.

Our limits will not allow us to dwell on the general events of the year, which serve to illustrate the condition and prospects of our cause; but we feel quite confident that even the war with China, the interference in the affairs of Turkey, the occasional fears of a general war in Europe, and the reciprocal menaces between England and America, together with a variety of other circumstances commonly deemed inauspicious and alarming, all conspire, when viewed aright, to prove the sure, though silent progress of our principles, and their benign influence in holding nations back from bloodshed, or compelling them to sheathe the sword far sooner than they would have done fifty years ago. Had public sentiment been what it was then, the attack upon China would have proceeded to conquest or defeat; the Turkish empire, like ill-fated Poland, would have been partitioned between its self-constituted guardians; we ourselves should long ago have been in bloody conflict with the land of our fathers and brethren; the flames of war would have blazed forth from one end of Europe to the other; nor might this demon of death have paused till he had become drunk with the blood of millions slain by baptized hands.

Never was the way better prepared for peaceful effort. The pulpit is open; the press is ready; the public mind through the land is waiting to be enlightened and formed aright on this subject; and nothing under God is now needed but a proper presentation of it before the community.

This, however, cannot be done without money. We cannot support agencies, and scatter publications through the land, and carry forward all our operations as they should be, without far more funds than we have commonly received; and the death of our venerable President forms a crisis in our financial affairs that ought to call forth new liberality from the surviving friends of our cause. We do not ask an amount like the scores of thousands expended on some kindred enterprises; but we certainly ought to have even now some ten or twenty thousand dollars a year; and such a sum could be obtained with ease by a concert of effort among all our friends through the land. Our late President paid or pledged from his own purse, about two thousand dollars in a single year; and, now that we can no longer lean on him, we must supply the deficiency by calling on our friends for much larger contributions than they have heretofore made. In no other way can the cause be sustained at all; and we would therefore urge pastors to take up collections for this as for other objects, our wealthy friends to send us their large donations, and the multitude, if they can do nothing more, at least to take our periodical, and thus aid us in a way quite as effective as any other.